

Riverside Minutes
Regular Meeting

June 12, 2024
Riverside Administration Office

A Regular Meeting of the Riverside School Board was held on the above date in the Riverside Administration Office with President Armstrong presiding and the following members present: Barbara Fedor, Linda Joyce, Laura Kobeski, Brandi Luckasavage, Mary Antoniaci McHugh, Anthony Mattioli (arrived at 7:21 p.m.), Tara Meredith, and Dan Nenish.

Also present were Paul M. Brennan, William Drazdowski, and Raymond C. Rinaldi II

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEMS – None

Motion by Mrs. Meredith, seconded by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh to approve minutes of May 13, 2024 Regular Meeting and to dispense with the reading and accept as delivered. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mr. Nenish, seconded by Ms. Kobeski to approve payrolls of 10 May 2024 of \$411,630.70 and 24 May 2024 of \$440,178.79. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Meredith, seconded by Mr. Nenish to approve estimated payrolls of 7 June 2024 of \$414,000 and 21 June 2024 of \$416,000. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to approve Treasurer's Report for April 2024 and the un-reconciled ending balances for May 31, 2024. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to approve and pay bills when found correct and funds are available. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh pursuant to Section 687 of the PA School Code, to adopt the Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year appropriating a total of \$31,444,349.47 and fixing the levy on real estate of 128.73 mills or \$128.73 per \$100 of each assessed valuation and to allow for 2% discount for full payment by September 30, 2024 and to fix the penalty for delinquent real estate taxes at ten percent (10%) for all non-installment option taxes not paid by November 30, 2024. ON THE QUESTION: Ms. Antoniaci McHugh stated that this is the fourth consecutive year that the Riverside School Board has not raised taxes. Riverside School District has one of the lowest tax rates in Lackawanna County. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Meredith, seconded by Mr. Nenish pursuant to Act 511 of 1965, to enact on a continuing basis the following levies for the Riverside School District for the 2024-2025 fiscal year: (a) Local Service Tax – \$5.00 (School District Share); (b) Wage and Income Tax – 1 % (½% School District Share); (c) Real Estate Transfer Tax - 1% (½% School District Share); (d) Waste Disposal Tax – \$0.10 (cents per ton) or negotiated fee in lieu of Waste Disposal Tax. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Nenish pursuant to Section 404 of the PA School Code of 1949 to nominate and elect Barbara Fedor as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Riverside School District for a one (1) year term, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Antoniaci McHugh, Luckasavage, Nenish, Kobeski, Meredith, Fedor, and Armstrong.

Motion by Mrs. Fedor, seconded by Mrs. Joyce to decline the Board Secretary's annual stipend of \$1,700. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Antoniaci McHugh, Luckasavage, Nenish, Kobeski, Meredick, Fedor, and Armstrong.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Kobeski pursuant to Section 404 of the PA School Code of 1949 to nominate and elect Mary Antoniaci McHugh as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Riverside School District for a one (1) year term, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Antoniaci McHugh, Luckasavage, Nenish, Kobeski, Meredick, Fedor, and Armstrong.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh to decline the Treasurer's annual stipend of \$3,000. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Antoniaci McHugh, Luckasavage, Nenish, Kobeski, Meredick, Fedor, and Armstrong.

Motion by Mrs. Meredick, seconded by Ms. Kobeski to contract with Lincoln Financial for life insurance, Vision Benefits of America for vision coverage, and Lincoln Financial for dental coverage for District employees, where applicable, for the 2024-2025 school year as per the Collective Bargaining Agreements. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Mrs. Meredick to approve Assured Partners for the attached list of insurance coverages for the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Meredick to approve the following one-year service agreement for the 2024-2025 school year:

COMPANY	SERVICE	BUILDINGS	EST. COST
Ehrlich Pest Control	Pesticide Spraying	All Buildings	\$2,001

Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mr. Nenish to approve the attached list of depositories and signatories for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Mrs. Meredick to approve the following contracts for the 2024-2025 school year:

COMPANY	SERVICE	ESTIMATED COST
CSIU	Data Processing Services	\$ 5,800
ADP	Payroll Services	\$ 30,500

Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Ms. Kobeski to Authorize the (H/F 7-18) homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions for the school year beginning July 1, 2024, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of ACT 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayers Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006). Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Mr. Nenish to authorize District auditors to make any necessary adjustments or budget transfers as determined by them during the District's financial audit for the 2023-2024 school year and to assign/commit/restrict resources in these or similar categories on the financial statements of the Riverside School District for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2024 for the purpose of future mandated cost, as per Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 54 (GASB 54). Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Meredick to authorize the Administration to dispose of District and Food Service records up to and including the 2016-2017 school year in July 2024. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Mr. Mattioli is now present.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh to approve the attached Food Service Management Contract with Metz Culinary effective July 1, 2024, subject to Superintendent and District Solicitor review. ON THE QUESTION: Mr. Brennan stated that the Collective Bargaining Agreement will remain the same. Roll call vote: YES, Mattioli, Joyce, Antoniaci McHugh, Luckasavage, Nenish, Kobeski, Meredick, Fedor, and Armstrong.

Motion by Mr. Nenish, seconded by Mrs. Meredick to accept the Act 44 Report as submitted by Mr. Scott Pentasuglio, Director of Compliance. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to authorize the Principals to select the teachers for the 2023-2024 summer school program by utilizing an internal posting. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mr. Nenish, seconded by Ms. Kobeski to appoint Ron Petrunich Boys' Assistant Basketball Coach effective the 2024-2025 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mr. Nenish, seconded by Mr. Mattioli to appoint Don Cannon Boys' Freshman Basketball Coach effective the 2024-2025 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Nenish, seconded by Mrs. Meredith to appoint Mark Prutisto Boys' Junior High Basketball Coach effective the 2024-2025 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mr. Nenish, seconded by Mrs. Meredith to appoint Adam Joyce Girls' Assistant Basketball Coach effective the 2024-2025 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mr. Nenish, seconded by Mr. Mattioli to appoint Joshua Godlewski Girls' Junior High Basketball Coach effective the 2024-2025 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Meredith to approve the 2024-2025 Title III Memorandum of Understanding between NEIU 19 and Riverside School District. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Mrs. Joyce to approve the 2024-2025 Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Education Services between the NEIU #19 and Riverside School District, pending review by Superintendent and District Solicitor. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Meredith, seconded by Mr. Nenish to appoint the list of applicants as Maintenance Seasonal Help Assignment Workers. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mr. Nenish, seconded by Ms. Kobeski to approve the following Use of Facilities Request(s): **SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENT(s): Riverside Cheerleaders - JV Cheer Camp - Riverside High School Gym – August 10 – 11, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. –2:00 p.m.*; Taylor Borough – Civil Service Tests – Riverside High School – July 27, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*.** Use is contingent upon adherence to the Use of Facilities Policy. *The Riverside School Board recognizes that this is a school-sponsored event. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Mrs. Meredith to allow the Superintendent to fill any position that may occur prior to the September 9, 2024 Board Meeting. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Meredith to approve the 2024-2025 IDEA Notice of Adoption of Approved LEA Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Meredith, seconded by Mrs. Joyce to appoint Tracy Polumbo as Full Time Secretary. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Meredith to appoint Marilyn Hoskins as Secondary Science Teacher effective the 2024-2025 school year at Step 1, Bachelor's Column, at a salary of \$46,670. Roll call vote: YES, Mattioli, Joyce, Antoniaci McHugh, Luckasavage, Nenish, Kobeski, Meredith, Fedor, and Armstrong.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Meredith to posts for the following Teacher Mentors effective the 2024-2025 school year: Elementary Teacher Mentor and Science Teacher Mentor. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Ms. Kobeski to approve the 5-year Microsoft EES agreement offered through IU13 Statewide Software Sales for 2024-2029 at an annual cost of \$13,830.60. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Ms. Kobeski to approve the Resolution for the Public School Facility Improvement Grant. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Meredith, seconded by Mr. Mattioli to approve the first reading of the following Policy Guides: 218.3 – Gang Activities, 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying; 819 – Suicide Prevention & Response, and 845 – Employee & Visitor ID Badges. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mr. Nenish, seconded by Mrs. Meredick to approve the attached RIVERSIDE ADMINISTRATOR COMPENSATION PLAN effective July 1, 2024. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Meredick to approve the attached Policy 328. COMPENSATION PLAN AND EVALUATION. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Meredick, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to approve the attached ADDENDUM NO. 3 TO BUSINESS MANAGER'S AGREEMENT DATED MARCH 14, 2022. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mr. Mattioli, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to approve the attached ADDENDUM NO. 2 TO SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT DATED MAY 9, 2022. Roll call vote: YES, Mattioli, Joyce, Antoniaci McHugh, Luckasavage, Nenish, Kobeski, Meredick, Fedor, and Armstrong.

Motion to authorize Atty. Raymond Wendowloski to discontinue the following assessment appeals: a. Riverside School District vs. Hotel Scranton II - 2015CV 6964; b. Riverside School District vs. Kane Properties I - 2015 CV 6968; c. Riverside School District vs. Moosic 1031 – 2015 CV 6969; d. Riverside School District vs. Centurion HSR - 2015 CV 6970; e. Riverside School District vs. PA 14 Taylor - 2015 CV 6971; f. Riverside School District vs. UHM PA Maple Manor - 2015 CV 6973; and g. Riverside School District vs. UMH PA Moosic Heights – 2015 CV 6974. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mr. Nenish, seconded by Mrs. Meredick to approve the attached Pole barn bids to the lowest bidder to contractor Sean Byrne (\$154,000) and Prolectric (\$38,460), subject to Superintendent and District Solicitor review. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to post for a Special Education Teacher effective the 2024-2025 school year. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Business Manager's Report – Mr. Drazdowski commented on the approved budget. This is the fourth consecutive year without a tax increase. He thanked the Board for their work on the budget.

Solicitor's Report - None

Academic Affairs Committee – Mrs. Joyce congratulated the Class of 2024. Administration and teachers will be working on curriculum over the summer.

NEIU Report – Mrs. Joyce reported that various NEIU employees have been trained as certified ISW IS Trainers. They will be able to support, train, and coach the PBIS Team.

Athletic Committee – Mr. Nenish reported on various sports/athletes who are still competing.

Board Policy Committee – Mr. Mattioli discussed the first reading of the various policy guides (Motion #40). He also talked about working on a district organization chart. Mrs. Luckasavage mentioned having criteria for dress down days.

Facilities Committee – Mrs. Fedor reported on completed and on-going projects.

Finance Committee – Ms. Antoniaci McHugh stated that the Board and Administration will continue their fiscal responsibility in the next school year.

Student Activities Liaison – Mrs. Meredick reported on the success of the new clubs.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Brennan reported on receiving great feedback on the graduation ceremony. He reported on the recent VHV festival and stated that over \$48,000 in scholarships were awarded this year. He thanked Michael McKeefery and the VHV group for their work. He thanked Mr. Drazdowski, Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, the Board and Administration on their work on the budget. He congratulated Ms. Antoniaci McHugh and Mrs. Fedor on their appointments as treasurer and secretary, respectively. He thanked the Board for the addendum to his contract. He also reported that he has completed and submitted the public schools facilities grant application. This grant would be used to replace 22 HVAC units.

OLD BUSINESS – None

OPEN – Eugene Gallagher, Taylor, had questions about food service employees. Mrs. Fedor recognized Josh Godlewski for taking over as the Junior High girls' basketball coach. Mr. Mattioli recognized Bob Coyle for his volunteer work with the Junior High girls' basketball team.

Motion by Mrs. Meredick, seconded by Ms. Kobeski to adjourn. Roll call vote: All in favor.